

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MADRID 02935 300735Z

21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 SAM-01 IO-10 /074 W

----- 104096

R 291540Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1690

AMEMBASSY LISBON

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRID 2935

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SP, PO

SUBJECT: SPANISH REACTION TO PORTUGUESE ELECTION

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: OTHER THAN FRANCO'S CONGRATUALTORY MESSAGE TO COSTA GOMES ON CELEBRATION OF APR 25, GOS HAS AVOIDED OFFICIAL COMMENTARY ON ELECTIONS OR THEIR OUTCOME. MEDIA AND POLITICIANS, HOWEVER, HAVE NOTED DEFEAT OF MYTHS OF "COMMUNIST STRENGTH" AND "IMMATURITY OF PEOPLE", SUGGESTING INDIRECTLY THAT SIMILAR OUTCOME MIGHT TAKE PLACE IN SPAIN IF PEOPLE WERE GIVEN THE CHANCE. AFM CREDITED WITH KEEPING ITS WORD ON ELECTIONS, EVEN IF MEDIA WERE MONOPOLIZED BY COMMUNISTS AND SOME PARTIES OUTLAWED. PS AND PPD MAJORITY SEEN AS VOTE FOR MODERATE SOCIALIST COURSE AND, IN FOREIGN RELATIONS, AS VOTE FOR INTEGRATION IN EUROPE, MAINTENANCE OF TIES WITH NATO AND REJECTION OF DICTATORSHIP OF RIGHT OR LEFT EXTREMES. END SUMMARY

2. GOS HAS BEEN VERY CIRCUMSPECT ON PORTUGUESE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MADRID 02935 300735Z

ELECTION, WHILE PRESS HAS HAD FIELD DAY REPORTING DETAILS

OF VOTING RESULTS. FRANCO SENT COSTA GOMES NATIONAL DAY CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE AND SPANISH AMBASSADOR IN LISBON MADE STATEMENT REITERATING SPAIN'S POLICY OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS PLAYED UP PEACEFUL MASSIVE TURNOUT TO VOTE FOR FIRST IN 48 YEARS AND ORDERLY POLLING AND VOTE-COUNTING PROCEDURES. PORTUGUESE EMBASSY SUPPLIED MEDIA REPS IN MADRID WITH UP-TO-THE MINUTE TALLY OF ELECTION RESULTS WHICH WERE FOLLOWED CLOSELY BY SPANIARDS.

3. IN MADRID, SEVILLE, AND BARCELONA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS HELD APR 25 COMMEMORATIVE MEETINGS REplete WITH PORTUGUESE FLAGS, CARNATIONS, AND SINGING OF PORTUGUESE REVOLUTIONARY SONGS AND MOCK ELECTIONS. POLICE BROKE UP MEETINGS AND SUBSEQUENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN MADRID AND SEVILLE, BUT DEMONSTRATION IN BARCELONA, JOINED BY SOME PASSERS-BY, WAS WITHOUT INCIDENT.

4. POLITICAL COMMENTATORS AND OPPOSITION POLITICIANS SO FAR UNDERScore MODERATION OF PORTUGUESE VOTERS WHO DESTROYED MYTH OF COMMUNIST INFLUENCE AND POLITICAL IMMaturity OF PEOPLE DESPITE COMMUNIST CONTROL OF MEDIA. PS AND PPD MAJORITY SEEN AS REJECTION OF LEFT OR RIGHT DICTATORSHIP AND VOTE FOR INTERGRATION OF PORTUGAL INTO MAINSTREAM

OF EUROPEAN POLITICS INCLUDING TIES TO NATO. AFM ITSELF WAS REBUFFED ON ISSUE OF BLANK VOTES AND WOULD NOW HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT WEIGHT OF POPULAR VOTES. OFFICIAL OF NATIONAL MOVEMENT TOLD EMBOFF THAT IF PS AND PPD FAILED TO PROJECT ELECTORAL STRENGTH IN UPCOMING CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS, THEY WOULD RISK POLITICAL DISCREDIT. NATIONAL MOVEMENT'S NEWSPAPER "ARRIBA" SAW LITTLE RELEVANCE IN PORTUGUESE ELECTIONS FOR SPAINNLINCE CIRCUMSTANCES OF TWO COUNTRIES SO DISIMILAR. OPPOSITION CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADER, RUIZ GIMENEZ, SAID ELECTIONS WERE FREE WITH EXCEPTION OF EXCLUSION OF PORTUGUESE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, PROVING THAT FREE ELECTIONS COULD BE HELD WITHIN YEAR OF REPLACEMENT OF AUTOCRATIC REGIME BY DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MADRID 02935 300735Z

5. DIRGEN OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS IN MFA TOLD EMBOFF THAT VOTE STRUCK OVERALL MODERATE NOTE BUT REFLECTED SIGNIFICANT REGIONAL DIFFERENCES IN PORTUGAL. PS, PPD, AND CDS CONTROLLED NORTH, MAJOR CITIES (EXCEPT OPORTO) AND PCP COULD BE SATISFIED WITH LESS IMPORTANT SOUTH. DIRGEN SAID OUTCOME WOULD UNBLOCK GOS-GOP REGULAR BUSINESS WHICH WAS HELD UP PENDING ELECTIONS; MFA THOUGHT

MEETING OF FONMINS MIGHT BE HELD IN JUNE. IT WAS
TIME NOW, HE SAID, FOR EUROPE AND U.S. TO GO TO BAT FOR
PORTUGUESE MODERATES THROUGH TECHNICAL AID PROJECTS IN
NORTH AND MAIN CITIES. WEST HAD TO HELP TO ENSURE THAT
MODERATES CONSOLIDATED POSITION IN FUTURE PARLIAMENTARY
ELECTIONS.

6. COMMENT: MEDIA, COMMENTATORS, AND OPPOSITION
POLITICIANS HAVE USED OUTCOME OF ELECTIONS TO PRESS VIEW
THAT IF UNDERDEVELOPED PORTUGAL COULD HAVE NON-VIOLENT
HONEST, ELECTIONS WHICH RESULTED IN NON-EXTREMIST MAJORITY,
THEN NO ONE SHOULD FEAR FREE ELECTIONS IN SPAIN. SPANISH
OPPOSITION AND REGIME LIBERALIZERS ARE JUBILANT OVER
PORTUGUESE ELECTIONS, AND FULLY PREPARED TO USE THEM AS
ANOTHER ARGUMENT TO ENCOURAGE GOVT TO DELIVER ON ITS
PROMISES. GENERAL IMPRESSION HERE, ON OTHER HAND, IS THAT ALTHOUGH
GOVT RELIEVED BY ELECTION OUTCOME, IT REMAINS
SUSPICIOUS ABOUT PORTUGAL'S DIRECTION AND WILL NOT LET
FAVORABLE ELECTION RESULTS INFLUENCE DOMESTIC
LIBERLIZATION PLANS VERY MUCH.
STABLER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MADRID02935
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750151-0367
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975048/aaaaagwi.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <22 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPANISH REACTION TO PORTUGUESE ELECTION
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SP, PO
To: STATE LISBON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006